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August 22, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Paul Galbenski, 2011-2012 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Report

**Entrepreneurship Education in Michigan**

This past month I attended two meetings regarding entrepreneurship education in Michigan. My first meeting was with Patty Cantu, Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE), along with Denise Teague, CTE Curriculum Consultant for Marketing/Entrepreneurship/Health/Hospitality and Tourism, and members of business and industry. The focus of the meeting was to explore what is currently being done within Michigan regarding teaching entrepreneurship along with setting the guideposts for future expansion of the "entrepreneurial mindset" for all of our students within CTE. This led to a meeting with Superintendent Flanagan, along with representatives from CTE, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), and business and industry. In this meeting we further explored curriculum options including a discussion regarding The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and its partnership with [The Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative](#) (ELI) to offer "Mindset: Tapping Your Entrepreneurial IQ," a self-paced online learning program that enables aspiring entrepreneurs to learn from the firsthand knowledge and experience of successful real-world entrepreneurs.

We are in the very early stages of exploration of this program and will have further discussions and follow-up meetings to determine if this is a direction that we would like to pursue and provide for our students. Currently, the marketing standards are under a review and revision process and the entrepreneurship standards reside within the Marketing CIP code. At the four technical campuses we currently have students earning twelve direct college credits which lead to a Certificate in Entrepreneurship with Macomb Community College. This fall we will pilot a similar program with Northwood University. All of these opportunities provide a seamless program of study for our students.

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### **SETDA Conference**

In early August I was very fortunate to be asked to attend the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) State Team Meeting in Chicago with Bruce Umpstead, Director, Education Technology and Data Coordination, and the rest of the Michigan team. The focus of the conference was "Leveraging the Changing Landscape: Technology's Role in School Reform and Improvement." The discussion was very rich and the two-day conference focused on exploring the implications of the convergence of technology-powered innovations in student assessment, digital content, online learning, and professional development to achieve higher student outcomes and deeper learning for all students.

### **Governor Snyder Meeting**

I had the opportunity to meet with Governor Rick Snyder this month. Barb Fardell, MDE Education Technology/Curriculum Manager, arranged for the meeting and was able to accompany me to the meeting with Governor Snyder. It was a great opportunity to briefly meet the Governor and I hope that we might have an opportunity later this year to meet again for further discussion on the current state of education in Michigan.

### **World Youth Day 2011**

Also in August, I had the experience of a lifetime! I was one of several chaperones who led a group of young people to World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. Seeing 1.4 million youth gather all in one location is truly an amazing sight to see. It is difficult to find words to describe the experience and I know for many of the youth it was a life-changing experience, as it was for me. The trip included spending the night under the stars at the Vigil site where the following day we celebrated the World Youth Day Closing Mass with Pope Benedict XVI. We were able to travel to Madrid, Toledo, Barcelona, Montserrat, Gerona, and Costa Brava. The architecture and the historical sites of this country are truly beautiful!

### **On Campus at OSTC-SE**

School will soon be up and running at Oakland Schools Technical Campus-Southeast (OSTC-SE), and students and faculty are excited as the 2011-2012 school year approaches on September 6th. The start of the school year at the technical campus always is one of great anticipation for our students, especially for those attending for the first time as they now attend two high schools: their home school and the technical campus. They also experience learning in a facilitated environment and are in a cluster program for 2.5 hours a day, five days a week. This is usually quite a schedule adjustment from their home school schedule. The key for student success - and this is true in business as well - is time management.

August 22, 2011  
Page 3

This skill is developed throughout the year as our students are able to develop their project management skills by navigating through their curriculum standards facilitated by project based learning. A great aspect of attending the technical campus is that students are afforded the opportunity to learn with students from surrounding districts and work with each other in a college-type environment. I am looking forward to this year, helping my students achieve their educational goals and earn their national information technology and business certifications along with their college credits!